

ORDER FILED & ENTERED 5/1/92
MINUTE BOOK _____ PAGE _____

RAYMOND HILARY LEATHERS
1917 - 1990

Raymond Hilary Leathers' record of service as a member of the Nashville Bar and as a criminal court judge for nearly 25 years ended with his death on December 28, 1990.

Judge Leathers was born to John Rucker Leathers and Sadie DeJarnatt Leathers on August 28, 1917, in Nashville, Tennessee. Judge Leathers' father was a member of the Nashville Police Department for 55 years, most of that time spent at the corner of 16th Avenue and Broadway.

Raymond Hilary Leathers was educated at Buena Vista grammar school and graduated from Hume-Fogg High School where he was actively involved in sports, and was a 1st Lt. in R.O.T.C. He went on to graduate from the Y.M.C.A. Night Law School in 1941, and began his law career practicing in Nashville with Homer Weimar and Dennis Summers. Later, he became a partner in the firm of Jackson, Tanner & Leathers.

Judge Leathers and his wife, Alla Mae Oliver Leathers, were married on November 30, 1945, at Scales Chapel in Nashville by The Rev. J. Francis McCloud, an Episcopal priest. Many of Judge Leathers' friends and family members have commented over the years on the close and devoted relationship that existed between Judge Leathers and his wife. When Judge Leathers was not at work in the courthouse he was always to be found at the side of his wife, Alla Mae, who, like Judge Leathers, became a great and good friend of many members of the Nashville Bar.

His public service began in January 1945 as an assistant district attorney. Judge Leathers was appointed City Attorney by Mayor Ben West and served in that position from 1954-1957. He also served in the General Assembly from 1953 to 1955. Judge Leathers was also a member of the Davidson County delegation to the state legislature, and a member of the Davidson County Democratic primary board. After the death of Congressman J. Percy Priest, Judge Leathers sought the Democratic Executive

Committee's nomination for Congress in 1956 to replace Mr. Priest and was defeated by one vote by J. Carlton Loser.

Judge Leathers' tenure on the Criminal Court bench began September 1, 1958, and he served in that capacity until his retirement on September 1, 1982. In 1978, he was appointed presiding judge over the city's 12 trial courts. During his tenure as criminal court judge he served as President of the Tennessee Judicial Conference from 1967 to 1968. He was a member of the Tennessee Bar Association and the Nashville Bar Association, serving as a director of the NBA from 1981 to 1983. He was President of the Barristers Club, formerly the Young Lawyers Division of the NBA, in 1965.

Although he did not attend school there, Judge Leathers for many years was an avid Vanderbilt University football fan. He attended virtually all Vanderbilt home games and, on one occasion in 1975, allowed two local attorneys to state on the record for inclusion in the minutes of Division I of Criminal Court that Vanderbilt had defeated the University of Tennessee in the annual gridiron contest the previous weekend in Knoxville.

Judge Leathers was active in both Scottish Rite Masons and York Rite Masons. He was a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and past president of Scottish Rite Club. Judge Leathers was a past director and member of the Royal Order of Jesters. He had been a member of the Al Menah Shrine Temple since December 2, 1943, was Potentate of Al Menah Shrine Temple in 1959, and served as Past Master and Honorary Member of Al Menah Shrine Patrol.

He was a member of Corinthian Lodge #414 F & AM, and served as Wise Master of Immanuel Chapter of Rose Croix #2 from 1967-1977, and a member of Elk's Lodge #72 of Brentwood.

He was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church where he served as Lay Reader and as Treasurer. He was Superintendent of Sunday School for ten (10) years. Judge Leathers once said that he did everything at church but play the organ. He was later a member of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church.

Judge Leathers was an exceptional student of the law. He had a splendid judicial temperament. He conducted criminal court trials with fairness, compassion and a keen sense of justice.

One of Judge Leathers' brothers, Ramsey B. Leathers, was for many years Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of Tennessee. Ramsey Leathers' sons, Ramsey (Bart) Leathers, Jr., and Raymond S. Leathers, who was named for the judge, became members of the Bar and Judge Leathers followed their legal careers with great interest and pride.

Had he lived, Judge Leathers would have been honored at the NBA Annual Banquet next month with a certificate noting his 50th year of membership in the local Bar.

In addition to his wife, Alla Mae Oliver Leathers, and brother Ramsey B. Leathers, he is survived by two other brothers, John R. Leathers, Dr. James P. Leathers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Nashville Bar Association that in the life and record of Raymond Hilary Leathers as a member of the Nashville Bar, we have been honored and blessed, and in his passing we have sustained a grievous loss personal to us all; that this memorial and resolution be placed in the permanent records of the Association and entered on the "In Memoriam" minute book of the Chancery Court of Davidson County; and that copies be furnished to the members of Judge Leathers' family.

This 26th day of November, 1991.

J. Randall Wyatt Jr.
HON. JUDGE J. RANDALL WYATT
Chairman

John J. Hollins
JOHN J. HOLLINS

Edward M. Yarbrough
EDWARD M. YARBROUGH

Victor S. Johnson, III
VICTOR S. JOHNSON, III

Robert L. Jackson
ROBERT L. JACKSON

ORDER FILED & ENTERED 10/1/92
MINUTE BOOK _____ PAGE _____

RAYMOND HILARY LEATHERS
1917 - 1990

ADDENDUM

Included in Judge Leathers' many notable deeds while serving as Judge of the Criminal Court for Davidson County, Tennessee, Division I, he appointed the first black Grand Jury Foreperson when in 1972 he appointed Jasper W. Patton to serve as Foreperson of the Davidson County Grand Jury. He also appointed the first female Grand Jury Foreperson for Davidson County in 1978 when he appointed Mrs. P. G. (Martha) Banker to that position.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that these meritorious achievements be adopted as an addendum to the Memorial Resolution previously adopted by the Nashville Bar Association; and that this Addendum be placed in the permanent records of the Association and entered on the "In Memoriam" minute book of the Chancery Court of Davidson County; and that copies be furnished to the members of Judge Leathers' family.

This 24 day of September, 1992.

J. Randall Wyatt, Jr.
HON. JUDGE J. RANDALL WYATT, JR.
Chairman

John J. Hollins
JOHN J. HOLLINS

Edward M. Yarbrough
EDWARD M. YARBROUGH

Victor S. Johnson, III
VICTOR S. JOHNSON, III

Robert L. Jackson
ROBERT L. JACKSON